

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

***WILLIAM R. CARROLL, et al.***

***-v-***

***BENJAMIN J. MARTIN, et al.***

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***BRENT KEENER***  
***FEBRUARY 5, 2003***

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***Condensed Transcript with Word Index***

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND  
(Northern Division)

WILLIAM R. CARROLL,  
et al.

Plaintiffs

Civil Action

v.

No. MJG-02-CV-2084

BENJAMIN J. MARTIN,  
et al.

Defendants

\* \* \* \* \*

Pursuant to Notice, the deposition of  
BRENT KEENER was taken on Wednesday, February 5th,  
2003, commencing at 10:02 a.m., at the law offices  
of Schlachman, Belsky & Weiner, P.A., 20 South  
Charles Street, Tenth Floor, Baltimore, Maryland  
21201, before Sharon A. Beaty, Notary Public.

Reported by: Sharon A. Beaty, CSR

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21

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1 STIPULATIONS  
2 It is stipulated and agreed by and  
3 between counsel for the respective parties that the  
4 reading and signing of this deposition by the  
5 witness be and the same are hereby waived.  
6 It is further stipulated and agreed  
7 that the filing of this deposition with the Clerk  
8 of the Court be and the same is hereby waived.  
9 \*\*\*\*\*  
10 (Exhibits 1 through 4 premarked.)  
11 BRENT KEENER,  
12 called for examination, having been duly sworn to  
13 tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the  
14 truth, testified as follows:  
15 EXAMINATION BY MR. BELSKY:  
16 Q I'm sure that your -- well, my name is  
17 Henry Belsky, as you know, and I'm sure your  
18 attorney has already explained everything about a  
19 deposition. Have you ever had your deposition  
20 taken before?  
21 A Yeah.

2 (Pages 2 to 5)

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1 Q On how many occasions?  
2 A **Just once.**  
3 Q Was that relative to an accident too?  
4 A **No.**  
5 Q What type of matter was that in?  
6 A **That was in regards to a workers' comp**  
7 **claim.**  
8 Q And where was that taken at?  
9 A **It was in Lancaster.**  
10 Q Was it just before the commission or was  
11 it in court?  
12 A **It wasn't in the court, it was in a**  
13 **setting like this.**  
14 Q Okay. If I ask you any questions you  
15 don't understand, just please tell me to rephrase  
16 it, and if you give me an answer I'll assume we're  
17 communicating. If you want to take a break, that's  
18 fine, I don't think we're going to be very long.  
19 A **Okay.**  
20 Q But if you need anything, I don't have a  
21 problem stopping. You have to answer with words,

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1 Q Is it your testimony that we've already  
2 been supplied with all the other information in the  
3 other discovery requests or court submissions?  
4 A **As far as I know.**  
5 Q Okay. I'm going to start off probably  
6 right at the get go. Can you identify this  
7 document? And I've marked it as Exhibit 2. It's  
8 the employer questionnaire.  
9 A **Yeah, this is a, this is a document**  
10 **that's used for unemployment compensation.**  
11 Q That's not a history of the termination  
12 of the employee?  
13 A **It's a document that's presented for the**  
14 **Lancaster County unemployment compensation to**  
15 **determine whether or not an employee is eligible**  
16 **for unemployment.**  
17 Q And who fills that out?  
18 A **This was filled out by my assistant, Jan**  
19 **Wenger.**  
20 Q And does the employee sign that?  
21 A **No.**

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1 not nods of heads.  
2 A **Okay.**  
3 Q And that way she can take it down. And  
4 please wait until whoever is asking a question to  
5 finish their question so that she can take down the  
6 question and answer. Sometimes as we talk in  
7 normal language we override each other. That  
8 doesn't do her any good.  
9 Now, having said that, I'm going to show  
10 you what I previously marked as Exhibit 1, which is  
11 a notice of deposition.  
12 A **Okay.**  
13 Q And I understand from counsel that the  
14 only additional records that you brought with you  
15 today were the telephone records on the date of the  
16 accident; is that correct?  
17 A **Uh-huh. Yes.**  
18 Q Is it your testimony that we have  
19 already been supplied with all the -- have you ever  
20 seen that before?  
21 A **Yes, yes.**

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1 Q On question number 5 it says please  
2 indicate the reason the claimant, which in this  
3 case was Ben Martin, was separated on the reverse  
4 side of the form or on a separate sheet of paper  
5 and return it with this form to the office named  
6 above. A statement describing the final incident  
7 which caused the claimant to be separated should be  
8 provided and signed by an individual with firsthand  
9 information concerning the incident. Is there  
10 another document, because I don't know who would  
11 have firsthand knowledge of the incident other  
12 than -- well, who is the person that performed that  
13 function?  
14 A **That performed what function?**  
15 Q Who provided the written statement who  
16 had firsthand knowledge?  
17 A **This statement?**  
18 Q Well, I don't know what statement that's  
19 referring to, it's not my form, so if that's the  
20 statement then --  
21 A **I wrote down the information on the**

3 (Pages 6 to 9)

Page 10

1 **additional information.**

2 Q So you had firsthand knowledge on the  
3 incidents that came to his termination?

4 A **That's correct.**

5 Q Now, it indicated in there, if I  
6 remember correctly, that there was a prior accident  
7 to this incident?

8 A **Yes, that's correct.**

9 Q Is that included in his personnel file?  
10 I didn't see that.

11 A **It would be in the driver file.**

12 Q Again, I may have gotten it and I don't  
13 recognize what it is.

14 MR. MANN: Let me see if we can find it  
15 for you.

16 MR. BELSKY: I appreciate it.

17 Q While he's looking for that I'll ask you  
18 if you can identify this document because I don't  
19 know what this is either?

20 A **This is a personnel action form, it's a**  
21 **form used by our company to determine different**

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1 not sure, maybe you can --

2 THE WITNESS: Well, yeah.

3 (Pause in the proceedings.)

4 Q I forgot to ask you a preliminary  
5 question. Why don't you state your name for the  
6 record.

7 A **Okay. My name is Brent Keener.**

8 Q Keener?

9 A **Keener.**

10 Q Mr. Keener, what is your affiliation  
11 with the defendant in this case, LamTech?

12 A **Yeah, I'm the vice president of human**  
13 **resources and safety.**

14 Q And how long have you been vice  
15 president of human resources and safety?

16 A **I have been vice president for about two**  
17 **years, been with the organization for a little over**  
18 **eight years.**

19 Q Can you describe your job function?

20 A **Yeah, I'm in charge of the human**  
21 **resources department and oversee the safety**

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1 **personnel action that's taken.**

2 Q What action is that?

3 A **On this it was a termination discharge**  
4 **for Ben Martin.**

5 Q Just so the record is clear that's what  
6 I previously marked as Exhibit 3?

7 A **(Nodding head indicating yes.)**

8 Q And what was the reason for his  
9 termination?

10 A **The reason was because he had two**  
11 **incidences, two vehicular incidences within his**  
12 **first, it was about three and a half months**  
13 **employment.**

14 Q When you say incidences you mean two  
15 accidents in the first three months?

16 A **Correct.**

17 Q Do you remember the -- well, I'll wait  
18 for your counsel to see if he can find them.

19 MR. MANN: Where it's going to be is in  
20 that one thing that we were looking at, you know,  
21 the evaluation, the three month evaluation. I'm

Page 13

1 **administration as well.**

2 Q And you have had that position for two  
3 years?

4 A **Right.**

5 Q On the date of this accident what was  
6 your position with the company?

7 A **I was also, at that time I was human**  
8 **resources manager and vice president of**  
9 **distribution.**

10 Q So you were not safety --

11 A **I was in charge of safety as well.**

12 Q Okay. And how long have you held that  
13 position?

14 A **I had been human resources manager ever**  
15 **since, for that eight years and had the**  
16 **distribution, vice president of distribution, I had**  
17 **just recently had that for about, about a month**  
18 **perhaps prior to the incident.**

19 Q And LamTech is what type of corporation;  
20 is it a public corporation, a private corporation?

21 A **Privately held.**

4 (Pages 10 to 13)

Page 14

1 Q Do you have any equity position in the  
2 company?  
3 A No.  
4 Q Who has the equity positions in the  
5 company?  
6 A Ray Martin is our CEO, he is an owner,  
7 and then there are three other owners as well with  
8 minority -  
9 Q So Ray Martin is the majority owner?  
10 A Yes.  
11 Q Is he active in the business?  
12 A Yes.  
13 Q And what is his title?  
14 A CEO.  
15 MR. MANN: Okay. I'll show you this  
16 form. I don't think that was actually part of the  
17 file. That's for the prior. We disclosed that in  
18 the Answers to Interrogatories that I told you we  
19 had.  
20 MR. BELSKY: I'll have this marked.  
21 MR. MANN: Yeah, okay.

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1 positions in the organization where he could, that  
2 he could do and we weren't able to come up with any  
3 and so his employment was then subsequently  
4 terminated.  
5 Q Okay. Well, did you make a  
6 determination of fault?  
7 A No.  
8 Q Did you ask him how the accident  
9 happened?  
10 A Yes.  
11 Q And did he give you a written report?  
12 A No.  
13 Q What did he tell you how the accident  
14 happened?  
15 MR. MANN: Objection. I'm going to  
16 instruct him not to answer that.  
17 MR. BELSKY: And why?  
18 MR. MANN: It's a conversation that  
19 Mr. Keener had with Mr. Martin and it was for the  
20 purposes of this claim, this insurance claim and  
21 it's work product discussion between two parties.

Page 15

1 MR. BELSKY: So I have it, but I already  
2 had some documents marked so I'll take it out of  
3 order. We'll ask that the driver's accident report  
4 of the accident of 11-30-00 be marked as Deposition  
5 Exhibit 5.  
6 (Exhibits 5 marked.)  
7 Q Now, can you just take me step by step  
8 the actions that was taken by the company to  
9 terminate this driver?  
10 A Yeah, there was, he had had the first  
11 incident about a month or two months after he had  
12 been hired where he hit a tree, a tree limb. We  
13 deliver, we drive box trucks, we deliver in  
14 residential areas, oftentimes townships and  
15 municipalities don't trim the trees back as often  
16 as well as they maybe should, and so we were  
17 willing to overlook that. When he had the second  
18 incident and there was some question as to his  
19 fault, we made the determination at that point that  
20 we did not want him driving trucks anymore. So we  
21 began looking around to see if there were other

Page 17

1 Q When did you first consult an attorney  
2 in this case?  
3 A It wasn't until we found out about the  
4 lawsuit.  
5 Q When did you first notify your carrier?  
6 A The day of the incident.  
7 Q Was it before or after you talked to  
8 Mr. Martin?  
9 A I believe it was after.  
10 Q So you spoke to him, Mr. Martin first,  
11 then you notified your carrier?  
12 A Yes.  
13 MR. BELSKY: I don't see how you can --  
14 MR. MANN: Ask him what the purpose of  
15 speaking to him was.  
16 Q What was the purpose of speaking to him?  
17 A To determine how to file a claim or what  
18 to say to the insurance carrier.  
19 Q Okay. And was it also the purpose to  
20 find out whether he should be terminated?  
21 A No.

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

Page 18

1 MR. BELSKY: I still don't see that it's  
2 privileged.  
3 MR. MANN: I do.  
4 MR. BELSKY: Okay. I guess we'll deal  
5 with that later.  
6 Q Who was present on that conversation?  
7 A Just myself. I talked to him over the  
8 phone.  
9 Q And was that a cell phone?  
10 A He was using his cell phone I believe.  
11 Q And did he call you from the scene?  
12 A I believe he had called in earlier and,  
13 but it was before I got to work and then I found  
14 out about it and I called in, called him.  
15 Q This document, which I think you  
16 produced today, is the cell phone for that day? I  
17 haven't had a chance to look at it, I just got it.  
18 A Yes.  
19 Q Can you point out the two telephone  
20 conversations you're talking about?  
21 A Yeah, I believe he called in, the date

Page 20

1 incoming, 13 and 14 that's marked on here  
2 numerically is 917-2466 and 355-224 -- 89. Are you  
3 familiar with those numbers?  
4 A The 2466 I believe is his number, 917.  
5 Q And the 2289?  
6 A That one I'm not certain who that is.  
7 Q This document that we're going to have  
8 marked as Exhibit 6, are these all his calls?  
9 A Those are all the calls for his phone,  
10 yes.  
11 MR. BELSKY: I'll have that marked as  
12 Exhibit 6.  
13 (Exhibit 6 marked.)  
14 A Those are just prior months.  
15 Q Okay. Based on your conversation with  
16 him did he continue to deliver the load?  
17 A I don't recall. I don't believe he did.  
18 I think he was too shaken up and so I believe we  
19 sent another driver down.  
20 Q Okay. Did you have a chance to meet  
21 with him after the accident?

Page 19

1 of the incident was the 16th, at about ten of 7 he  
2 called in I believe to report the incident, I'm not  
3 exactly sure when I called him, it would have, it  
4 would have probably been an incoming call for him.  
5 I believe I called him on his cell phone probably  
6 around ten of 9 or --  
7 Q I'm sorry. Would you mark the one where  
8 he called his office?  
9 A Where he called the office?  
10 Q Right. And is there an incoming that  
11 you would make your best estimate as to when that  
12 would be, would you mark that one?  
13 A That I would have called him. Yeah. It  
14 would have been one of these two, I'll just put  
15 that one.  
16 Q Now, I assume your number of your  
17 company is 738-3044?  
18 A That's correct.  
19 Q Area code 717?  
20 A Uh-huh.  
21 Q And the numbers that are on the

Page 21

1 A I'm trying to remember. I don't believe  
2 I did. The next time that I met with him I believe  
3 was for his termination.  
4 Q And when would that have been?  
5 A On the 19th.  
6 Q And at the termination is there a  
7 hearing on that?  
8 A No, it was just myself and his  
9 supervisor, Bob Brooks, and him in my office.  
10 Q Was the decision already made or was  
11 it --  
12 A At that point the decision had already  
13 been made.  
14 Q And is there a policy at the company  
15 about him having a right of appeal from  
16 termination?  
17 A There's no official policy about an  
18 appeal.  
19 Q And what is the unofficial policy?  
20 A Once you're terminated, you're  
21 terminated.

6 (Pages 18 to 21)



Page 22

1 Q Okay. Could you just give me the  
2 essence of the conversation between you and him at  
3 that meeting?

4 A Sure.

5 Q Or, and the other gentleman.

6 A Sure. I basically told him that, you  
7 know, we had had two incidences within, you know,  
8 the first couple months, I told him that we had  
9 looked around for another position in the company  
10 and that we didn't have any available that we  
11 thought would suit him and so that we were going to  
12 have to terminate his employment. He said, you  
13 know, that's fine, he wasn't angry or wasn't upset,  
14 he said he understood, and we shook hands and  
15 parted ways.

16 Q You were aware that in 1998 he had his  
17 license suspended?

18 A Yes.

19 Q That was part of his employment  
20 application?

21 A Right.

Page 23

1 Q And you were aware that he had a prior  
2 accident before coming to your employment?

3 A Correct.

4 Q Why don't you take me through -- and  
5 you're aware that he had a raise in January of the  
6 year of the accident, is that right, a 25 cent  
7 raise?

8 A Oh, an increase, yes.

9 Q First of all, what is the basis of  
10 giving him an increase? I looked at his  
11 performance, they looked like they were all not  
12 excellent but superior, or whatever the category is  
13 below that. How do you determine the raise?

14 A Well, it's determined by a supervisor  
15 who felt he was doing an adequate job, he had had  
16 the one incident but he also had a valid CDL class  
17 A license. Our trucks don't require a class A  
18 license and so we started him out at a base rate  
19 and felt that after three months that he would be  
20 deserving of an increase.

21 MR. MANN: Could I interrupt just for

Page 24

1 one second? You marked as number 5 the cell phone  
2 record?

3 MR. BELSKY: I think number 6.

4 MR. MANN: Or number 6, I'm sorry. I  
5 just want to let you know that's an original too so  
6 we just need to make a copy. I'll keep that. And  
7 the other one, I don't know whether you're going to  
8 mark that or not but the other cell phone record  
9 that I gave you this morning, that's the only copy  
10 that we have of that too.

11 MR. BELSKY: Why don't we mark this as  
12 7? Are these two copies of the same thing?

13 MR. MANN: I don't think so.

14 MR. BELSKY: I'll just combine them.

15 MR. MANN: Yeah, all cell phone records.

16 MR. BELSKY: I'll combine them with a  
17 stapler and we'll mark that as 7.

18 (Exhibit 7 marked.)

19 MR. BELSKY: Why don't we just have him  
20 identify Number 7?

21 Q Number 7, is that the telephone records

Page 25

1 for other employees?

2 A This is actually the cell phone records  
3 from previous dates, from November and December.

4 Q For this driver?

5 A For this driver.

6 MR. MANN: Okay. See, what was the  
7 second part of that? Is that also --

8 THE WITNESS: This is November into  
9 December and this is December into January and the  
10 one in question was mid-January.

11 Q So the only records I have are telephone  
12 records?

13 MR. MANN: No, it's underneath. Where  
14 are the others at? Oh, here it is, here it is.  
15 These are the ones I'm worried about. 7, that's  
16 yours. You must have had that from what I already  
17 provided you. They were the ones I gave you  
18 beforehand.

19 A This is for all other employees.

20 MR. BELSKY: Why don't we mark this as  
21 8? And so 8 is the telephone records for all other

7 (Pages 22 to 25)



Page 26

1 employees.  
 2 **A On the date in question, yes.**  
 3 **Q** Date in question.  
 4 (Exhibit 8 marked.)  
 5 **Q** Let me just clean up a couple of things.  
 6 So there was no question he was driving for you on  
 7 the date of the accident?  
 8 **A Correct.**  
 9 **Q** And he was delivering a load for you?  
 10 **A Uh-huh.**  
 11 **Q** And do you -- what is the company's  
 12 policy regarding payment of traffic tickets  
 13 received by a driver while they are in your  
 14 employment?  
 15 **A If it was for something that was, in**  
 16 **other words, like speeding, seat belt violations,**  
 17 **those type of things, the employee is responsible**  
 18 **for paying those.**  
 19 **Q** In this case I understand that the  
 20 employer received a ticket and paid it. Did you  
 21 pay it or did the employee pay it?

Page 27

1 **A The employee paid it.**  
 2 **Q** Do you know whether he was represented  
 3 by an attorney at the time the ticket was paid?  
 4 **A I do not know.**  
 5 **Q** Do you know whether anybody provided him  
 6 with any advice relative to payment of the ticket?  
 7 **A I do not know.**  
 8 **Q** I show you these photographs. These are  
 9 photographs of the vehicle. Well, before I do  
 10 that, did you inspect the vehicle when it came  
 11 back?  
 12 **A No, I did not.**  
 13 **Q** Did somebody from the company inspect  
 14 the vehicle when it came back?  
 15 **A I believe his supervisor did.**  
 16 **Q** Who was his supervisor?  
 17 **A Bob Brooks.**  
 18 **Q** Is he still working there?  
 19 **A He works out of our Virginia facility.**  
 20 **Q** What is that address?  
 21 **A 5150 Innovation Way, no, I'm sorry,**

Page 28

1 **that's incorrect. I have it if you need it. I**  
 2 **don't know it by heart.**  
 3 **MR. BELSKY:** Off the record.  
 4 (Pause in the proceedings.)  
 5 **A I do not have it. I thought I did.**  
 6 **MR. MANN:** We'll get you that address.  
 7 **THE WITNESS:** Yeah.  
 8 **Q** That's fine.  
 9 **A It's Richmond, Virginia, Concrete Place,**  
 10 **I just don't know the number. Concrete Place,**  
 11 **Richmond, Virginia.**  
 12 **Q** That's probably fine. It's the same  
 13 name of the company, it's the same?  
 14 **A Yes.**  
 15 **Q** When a truck goes -- when this truck --  
 16 where did this truck leave, what facility did this  
 17 truck leave from?  
 18 **A Mohler Church Road, which is our**  
 19 **corporate office.**  
 20 **Q** In Pennsylvania?  
 21 **A Yes.**

Page 29

1 **Q** Now, before a truck goes out is it  
 2 inspected by the employee?  
 3 **A The drivers do a pretrip inspection,**  
 4 **yeah, they do their own.**  
 5 **Q** Do they sign a pretrip document that  
 6 they have inspected it?  
 7 **A I believe so, yes.**  
 8 **Q** Has that been supplied to us in this  
 9 case, do you know?  
 10 **A I don't think so. I don't know if --**  
 11 **MR. MANN:** I don't know if there's a  
 12 written record.  
 13 **A I'm not certain that we would have it**  
 14 **that long, I'll have to double-check.**  
 15 **Q** But there is a written document?  
 16 **A There generally is one.**  
 17 **MR. MANN:** We'll check for you. When he  
 18 goes back I'll check.  
 19 **Q** And when a truck comes back is it  
 20 checked by someone to see whether or not there's  
 21 any damage to it?

8 (Pages 26 to 29)

Page 30

1       **A The employee is supposed to do a pretrip**  
2       **and a post trip inspection of the vehicle.**  
3       Q Well, how would you know that damage was  
4       done to a vehicle on his trip if he didn't tell you  
5       about it?  
6       **A The supervisor is supposed to get the**  
7       **pretrip and post trip and on the post trip it's**  
8       **supposed to be listed what damage might have been**  
9       **done if any.**  
10      Q Well, if he doesn't check it out how  
11      does the company know that the employee is being  
12      honest?  
13      **A If he doesn't record the damage?**  
14      Q Yes.  
15      **A It's noted by the supervisor.**  
16      Q So the supervisor has to do his own  
17      inspection?  
18      **A He doesn't do a regular inspection but a**  
19      **visual inspection if his supervisor happens to see**  
20      **the truck come in and notice damage on it he would**  
21      **ask the employee about it.**

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1       Q Okay. So basically you are relying on  
2       the employee to be truthful on what the damage is  
3       to the vehicle when he leaves and when he returns?  
4       **A Generally.**  
5       Q If a vehicle had a damaged rear mirror I  
6       assume it would not go out on the road?  
7       **A Yeah, that's correct. I believe so.**  
8       Q No, it would not go out on the road?  
9       **A Yeah.**  
10      Q All right. And what about black scuff  
11      mark, would that affect the vehicle going out on  
12      the road?  
13      MR. MANN: Do you know?  
14      **A The black scuff -- if it had a black**  
15      **scuff mark on it?**  
16      Q Yes, on the bumper.  
17      **A It depends on where it would be. If it**  
18      **was on the bumper it probably wouldn't affect it,**  
19      **no.**  
20      Q The company provided me with these  
21      photographs of the vehicle.

Page 32

1       MR. BELSKY: I don't know if we ever got  
2       color copies. If you have got the original, I  
3       would appreciate it.  
4       MR. MANN: I'm not sure.  
5       MR. BELSKY: If you have them that would  
6       be great, if you have color copies because these  
7       aren't as clear as I would like them to be.  
8       MR. MANN: What do you have there? Just  
9       that one?  
10      MR. BELSKY: Just that one.  
11      MR. MANN: Okay. I mean is that --  
12      that's all I have.  
13      MR. BELSKY: Oh, okay.  
14      MR. MANN: I think, unless you have  
15      another copy. I'll look for it.  
16      MR. BELSKY: Well, I have other photos.  
17      MR. MANN: Let me see and I'll see if I  
18      can find the originals. Are these the ones we  
19      provided to you?  
20      MR. BELSKY: They are of the truck, so  
21      yes, you provided them to us.

Page 33

1       MR. MANN: Okay.  
2       MR. BELSKY: Off the record.  
3       (Discussion held off the record.)  
4       MR. MANN: I have a lot of angles but  
5       some of them don't show the other side of the truck  
6       so I didn't really -- ignore that. I mean unless  
7       you really need them, ignore that writing on there.  
8       That's just the guys. Here is the copies of all  
9       the ones I've got. See, some of them don't show  
10      the area of, you know, they don't even show the  
11      right side of the truck.  
12      MR. BELSKY: Okay. I'll mark these and  
13      then I'll have them color copied while we're doing  
14      the other deposition.  
15      MR. MANN: You can do that here?  
16      MR. BELSKY: No, I'll run somebody out  
17      to do it.  
18      MR. MANN: Or I can get them and send  
19      them to you.  
20      MR. BELSKY: I'd just as soon send  
21      somebody out while we're waiting.

9 (Pages 30 to 33)

Page 34

1 Q I'm going to show you these photographs  
2 and -- I may have the answer to the question here.  
3 Do you know when these photographs were taken?  
4 A I'm not certain, no.  
5 Q Okay. The information on the top  
6 indicated it was taken 1-26, '01 I assume?  
7 MR. MANN: He wouldn't know anything  
8 about that. That was done by the insurance  
9 company, I can tell you that.  
10 MR. BELSKY: Okay. So that's -- okay.  
11 Q Did the company do an inspection of the  
12 vehicle when it came back after the accident?  
13 A I believe the supervisor did.  
14 Q And what did that show?  
15 A To my knowledge it showed the damage,  
16 there was a damaged mirror and some other damage  
17 that needed to be repaired.  
18 Q Was a report made?  
19 A A report made?  
20 Q Of the damage to the vehicle.  
21 A There was -- I don't know that a report

Page 35

1 was made of the damage. We, we leased the truck  
2 through Ryder and generally there, whenever there's  
3 damage to a vehicle that needs to be repaired we  
4 take it out of service and we call Ryder and Ryder  
5 repairs it then.  
6 Q Okay.  
7 MR. BELSKY: Is that in the Ryder  
8 documents?  
9 MR. MANN: No, I don't think we've seen  
10 it, I don't think we have it. Whatever they did to  
11 the truck they did. I don't know if they had to do  
12 anything to the truck, Ryder I'm talking about.  
13 MR. BELSKY: Okay. Why don't we mark  
14 this as a group as Exhibit Number 9?  
15 (Exhibit 9 marked.)  
16 MR. BELSKY: Exhibit 9 is two loose  
17 photographs and six photographs that are on blue  
18 purple type of backing.  
19 MR. MANN: Actually I do have, I don't  
20 think this is part of their file but I do have, I  
21 think this was done by the guy who took those

Page 36

1 pictures.  
2 MR. BELSKY: Okay.  
3 MR. MANN: And you can mark that and  
4 make a copy of it.  
5 MR. BELSKY: Okay.  
6 MR. MANN: It was below the deductible.  
7 MR. BELSKY: Why don't you mark this as  
8 10?  
9 (Exhibit 10 marked.)  
10 Q Pardon me while I read this.  
11 A That's fine.  
12 MR. MANN: Off the record.  
13 (Discussion held off the record.)  
14 MR. BELSKY: Could you tell me who took  
15 these pictures?  
16 MR. MANN: That's the insurer, that  
17 would be whoever I identified that's doing the  
18 investigation.  
19 MR. BELSKY: Okay.  
20 MR. MANN: I can tell you from the  
21 documents.

Page 37

1 MR. BELSKY: Do you have the color  
2 copies of those too?  
3 MR. MANN: Yes. These are the ones I  
4 gave you at the deposition.  
5 MR. BELSKY: Okay. Do you want to put  
6 them on a pile and that way I'll get them all color  
7 copied?  
8 Q Just to clear things up I'm going to  
9 show you these photographs which were marked in  
10 Mr. Curtis' Deposition Exhibit 2: Have you ever  
11 seen those photographs before?  
12 A I just saw them for the first time about  
13 20 minutes ago.  
14 Q Okay.  
15 MR. MANN: They were taken by Mr. Dixon,  
16 who was identified in the Answers to  
17 Interrogatories.  
18 Q That's not part of your investigation?  
19 A No.  
20 Q You never identified the point of impact  
21 of the accident?

10 (Pages 34 to 37)

Page 38

1 A No.

2 MR. BELSKY: Put them on the pile.

3 MR. MANN: Okay.

4 (Pause in the proceedings.)

5 Q Now, my understanding in reading some of  
6 your personnel information was that a bonus was  
7 given out for good driving to employees?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q Did Mr. Martin ever receive a bonus for  
10 good driving?

11 A No.

12 Q And how, what is the criteria for good  
13 driving bonus?

14 A First of all the individual has to be  
15 employed for a complete quarter, full three months  
16 of the calendar quarter year and then secondly they  
17 have to be, have no accidents where they were at  
18 fault and/or if they do have an accident, less than  
19 250 dollars in damage I believe it was.

20 Q The, and how long had he -- he had been  
21 there for a quarter, had he not?

Page 40

1 A No.

2 Q Explain to me the cell phone policy.

3 A The drivers all have cell phones that

4 they can use, they're delivery drivers, we deliver  
5 to residential customers as well as to stores, so  
6 if they would be near a customer but were given bad  
7 directions or something they use their cell phones  
8 to call and find out where they're at or where they  
9 need to be.

10 Q Is this a phone that you provide the  
11 driver?

12 A Yes, uh-huh.

13 Q Do some of the drivers have their own  
14 personal cell phones?

15 A I think one or two.

16 Q And what is the policy regarding how  
17 they would notify you they have their personal cell  
18 phone, would they have to notify you?

19 A They wouldn't have to notify us.

20 Q Do you know whether Mr. Martin had a  
21 personal cell phone?

Page 39

1 A No. He had only been, I think his hire  
2 date was October 2nd and so it wasn't a complete  
3 calendar quarter, we do it by calendar quarters.

4 Q Okay. So the calendar quarter meaning  
5 he would have to go from January, February, March?

6 A Right, correct, before he would have  
7 been eligible.

8 Q He wouldn't have qualified because he  
9 had the accident?

10 A For which, I'm sorry?

11 Q For this accident would this have  
12 knocked his qualifications down or not?

13 A It would depend on if the, if he was  
14 determined to be at fault and if he was determined  
15 to be at fault then he wouldn't have been eligible  
16 for it.

17 Q Did the company ever make that  
18 determination?

19 MR. MANN: Objection.

20 A No.

21 Q For that purpose?

Page 41

1 A I do not know, I don't believe he did  
2 but he may have, I just don't know.

3 Q Did you ever ask him that question?

4 A No.

5 Q Mr. Martin had indicated at his  
6 deposition that the only damage that he saw was to  
7 the mirror. Did he ever offer an explanation to  
8 you why the mirror was broken?

9 A He, I believe he said it was as a result  
10 of his incident. It was in our discussion when I  
11 talked to him when he had called he said that --

12 MR. MANN: You answered the question.  
13 Objection.

14 MR. BELSKY: Are you instructing him not  
15 to answer when he called?

16 MR. MANN: He answered the question, he  
17 said --

18 Q Okay. What else did he tell you when he  
19 first called you?

20 MR. MANN: Objection for the same reason  
21 as stated before.

11 (Pages 38 to 41)

Page 42

1 MR. BELSKY: Are you instructing him not  
2 to answer?

3 MR. MANN: Yes.

4 Q This call to you was before you even  
5 notified the insurance carrier?

6 A Yes.

7 MR. BELSKY: Is that still your  
8 position?

9 MR. MANN: Yes. He testified it was for  
10 the purpose of notifying the insurance carrier.

11 MR. BELSKY: Okay.

12 Q Did he ever explain to you what the  
13 bumper problem was caused by?

14 A No.

15 Q The pictures that we showed, those are  
16 the ones involved in this accident I assume?

17 A I assume.

18 Q All right.

19 MR. MANN: He didn't take them.

20 MR. BELSKY: I know, I thought there  
21 might be some kind of identifying mark, you know.

Page 44

1 (Exhibit 11 marked.)

2 Q Okay. So he fills out this application  
3 that's been marked as Exhibit 11?

4 A Yes, that's correct.

5 Q And he indicated in this application  
6 that he was involved in a prior accident; is that  
7 correct?

8 A Yes, uh-huh.

9 Q Did you investigate when that accident  
10 was?

11 A What do you mean did we investigate?

12 Q Well, when he filled out --

13 A We talked to him about it.

14 Q Okay. And what did he say?

15 A He said that he had been, had made a  
16 mistake, he was driving too fast, he was driving a,  
17 I think a tanker, a milk truck or something like  
18 that and the roads were wet.

19 Q Did he say when that happened?

20 A I believe he said it was in July of  
21 2000.

Page 43

1 Q Now, tell me the process in which  
2 Mr. Martin was hired. Do you have his personnel  
3 file with you?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Why don't you take a look at his  
6 personnel file.

7 A Okay.

8 Q Take us step by step how the hiring  
9 process works.

10 A Okay. Well, he completed an  
11 application.

12 Q Could I see the application?

13 A Sure.

14 MR. MANN: I believe you've already got  
15 a copy of that.

16 MR. BELSKY: Because it's back and  
17 front, I know you gave them to me, but I'm going to  
18 have it marked and we'll put it on the pile.

19 MR. MANN: Okay.

20 MR. BELSKY: All right. Could you mark  
21 this as Exhibit 11?

Page 45

1 Q Does it show anywhere on that report?

2 A It's on one of the other, his other  
3 applications.

4 Q Can you show me the document that it's  
5 on? I honestly didn't see it, but, again, I don't  
6 know what I'm looking at.

7 (Document tendered.)

8 MR. MANN: Which one are you looking at  
9 now so I can just see?

10 MR. BELSKY: The one marked Ryder.

11 MR. MANN: Okay. Ryder. You have that  
12 one too.

13 MR. BELSKY: I'm sure I do. I just  
14 don't know what I'm looking at when I see these  
15 documents, that's why I need them explained to me.  
16 Okay. Why don't we have this marked as 12?

17 (Exhibit 12 marked.)

18 Q What's marked as Exhibit 12, where did  
19 you acquire that from?

20 A This he completed after his initial  
21 hiring, this is a, something, or a job offer had

12 (Pages 42 to 45)

Page 46

1 **been made then he completes this.**  
 2 Q So he completed that?  
 3 A Yes.  
 4 Q Maybe I missed something. So you  
 5 didn't -- it wasn't a Ryder truck that was involved  
 6 in that accident?  
 7 A I'm sorry?  
 8 Q We talked about --  
 9 A **In this accident, no, no. This is**  
 10 **his --**  
 11 Q Okay. Go ahead.  
 12 A **This is his application, this is an**  
 13 **extension of his application.**  
 14 Q Okay. Can I see it then?  
 15 A Uh-huh.  
 16 Q What if any follow-up did you do to find  
 17 out more specific facts regarding this prior  
 18 accident?  
 19 A **We sent a letter to his previous**  
 20 **employers.**  
 21 Q And did you receive responses to those?

Page 47

1 A Yes.  
 2 Q Can I see those?  
 3 A Sure.  
 4 Q The fact that these forms say Ryder on  
 5 it, what is the significance of that?  
 6 A **There is none, Ryder provides us with**  
 7 **the driver qualification file and with blank copies**  
 8 **of all the forms.**  
 9 Q So this is sort of a give me from them  
 10 to you for --  
 11 A **Right. We purchase them from them, from**  
 12 **Ryder to do our --**  
 13 Q On the one that we're talking about,  
 14 name of previous employer, Neo Plan, USA.  
 15 A Uh-huh.  
 16 Q I don't see any information they gave  
 17 you. Is that a fair statement, they gave you no  
 18 information regarding him?  
 19 A **Right.**  
 20 Q Okay. And the information that was  
 21 given to you by Clouse Trucking?

Page 48

1 A Uh-huh.  
 2 Q Okay. It said that he backed into two  
 3 milk houses at farms?  
 4 A Uh-huh.  
 5 Q And it said he jackknifed on wet road  
 6 and hit a car coming in opposite direction?  
 7 A Uh-huh.  
 8 Q And he had a heavy foot, I assume that  
 9 means he was a speeder?  
 10 A **I don't know what that means.**  
 11 Q You don't know what a heavy foot is?  
 12 A **I think it's subjective, what one person**  
 13 **may determine to be a heavy foot as another.**  
 14 Q But what does the term mean in trucking?  
 15 MR. MANN: I object to that. He doesn't  
 16 know what they meant.  
 17 Q Do you know what it means?  
 18 A **In general I would think a heavy foot**  
 19 **means that somebody speeds but I think it's**  
 20 **subjective in terms of who decides that.**  
 21 Q Did you investigate these incidences any

Page 49

1 more than the information you got back from --  
 2 A No.  
 3 Q -- Clouse? So you don't know the dates  
 4 of these incidences?  
 5 A No.  
 6 MR. BELSKY: Have I marked those? Okay.  
 7 Why don't we mark this?  
 8 (Exhibit 13 marked.)  
 9 Q Are these the only two responses you got  
 10 from previous prior employers?  
 11 A Yes.  
 12 Q There were more prior employers?  
 13 A Yes.  
 14 Q How many prior employers were there?  
 15 A **I believe from -- do we have his**  
 16 **application? He has listed down one other one**  
 17 **other than being self-employed.**  
 18 Q Okay. The one other one was --  
 19 A **United Sleep Product.**  
 20 Q United Sleep Product. And he wasn't a  
 21 driver for that company?

13 (Pages 46 to 49)



Page 50

1 **A Not that we're aware of.**  
 2 **Q** Okay. And then he went into landscaping  
 3 in '97. There came a time in his prior history  
 4 that he had lost his license. Did he tell you that  
 5 he lost his license on the application?  
 6 **A** **It was on his, it was listed on his**  
 7 **application that he had lost it due to points**  
 8 **violations.**  
 9 **Q** Okay. And did you make an inquiry as to  
 10 what the points violations were?  
 11 **A** **I don't remember.**  
 12 **Q** I think that they were supplied. Have  
 13 you ever seen that document?  
 14 **A** **Oh, yes, this is his MVR, his motor**  
 15 **vehicle record.**  
 16 **Q** And can you tell me what it says?  
 17 **A** **It says that he had a violation**  
 18 **September 3rd of '98 for exceeding the maximum**  
 19 **speed.**  
 20 **Q** Anything else?  
 21 **A** **And then he had a suspension as a result**

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1 **of that.**  
 2 **Q** Just the one violation?  
 3 **A** **He had the suspension then he had the**  
 4 **driving too fast for conditions July 19th.**  
 5 **Q** Okay. What if any -- I ask this be  
 6 marked as the next exhibit.  
 7 (Exhibit 14 marked.)  
 8 **MR. BELSKY:** So this document is marked  
 9 as Exhibit Number 14.  
 10 **MR. MANN:** I don't need a copy of that  
 11 one. That was from your file.  
 12 **MR. BELSKY:** Right.  
 13 **Q** What if any impact did this have on his  
 14 application for employment?  
 15 **A** **None at that point. We had, he had**  
 16 **talked to us about his incident, he had a valid CDL**  
 17 **class A license that he had gotten in September of**  
 18 **2000 and so we felt that he was a valid qualified**  
 19 **driver. He had, the state had just certified him**  
 20 **for CDL and we don't require CDL.**  
 21 **Q** So what you're saying is if the state

Page 52

1 qualifies him his prior record is not important to  
 2 you?  
 3 **A** **No, I'm not saying that, I'm saying that**  
 4 **the state had qualified him for a CDL and we looked**  
 5 **at his prior record, he had talked about the one**  
 6 **incident that he had had recently, the speeding**  
 7 **violation was from '98 and we felt he had come with**  
 8 **two good references.**  
 9 **Q** The good references being the one person  
 10 that didn't say anything?  
 11 **A** **No, no, no, from other employees.**  
 12 **Q** Oh, other employees.  
 13 **A** **Uh-huh.**  
 14 **Q** Do you have those with you? I think I  
 15 have those here, I just want to make sure.  
 16 **A** **It was verbal references, there was two**  
 17 **guys that were employees with us that went to his**  
 18 **church, went to church with him.**  
 19 **Q** Do you know who they were?  
 20 **A** **Bob Brooks and Allan Roden.**  
 21 **Q** If it's on the back of this form they

Page 53

1 were written --  
 2 **A** **It's back on the --**  
 3 **Q** I'm sorry?  
 4 **A** **It's on his application, on the back**  
 5 **part of the application that I have it listed that**  
 6 **he knows Bob Brooks and I think it's referenced on**  
 7 **the third page.**  
 8 **Q** Okay. So on the employment application  
 9 it has the reference on the back, remarks,  
 10 excellent candidate, enjoys driving, feels like he  
 11 has leadership potential. Is that what you're  
 12 referring to?  
 13 **A** **Yeah.**  
 14 **Q** I'm going to show you this document and  
 15 maybe you can tell me what this is.  
 16 **A** **Okay. This is the same one we just**  
 17 **looked at, it's part of his application. This is**  
 18 **the Ryder form.**  
 19 **Q** Okay. Let me just make sure.  
 20 **A** **That's this one. Exhibit 12 I guess.**  
 21 **Q** Can you tell me the date that he got his

14 (Pages 50 to 53)



Page 54

1 license back after suspension?

2 **A They restored it February 11th of '99.**

3 Q All right. So we were going through the  
4 process, he fills out an application and then  
5 what's the next step that you take as far as  
6 deciding whether to hire him or not?

7 **A He filled out the application, I**  
8 **interviewed him.**

9 Q Okay. And there's no form of the  
10 interview. Is there any written notes?

11 **A Just the notes on the back of the**  
12 **application.**

13 Q The notes on the back of the application  
14 which you already spoke about.

15 **A Uh-huh.**

16 Q Does he get a physical examination?

17 **A Yes.**

18 Q Who does the physical examination?

19 **A A company, Physician Crossroads Family**  
20 **Medical Center.**

21 Q And who pays for that?

Page 56

1 **A Same organization.**

2 Q Great. Okay. So we have him physical  
3 examined and the company does not get a report back  
4 or it's just not in the file?

5 **A We get, there's a medical examiner's**  
6 **certificate that stated that he's cleared with**  
7 **corrective lenses.**

8 Q Let me make sure I have that here.

9 Okay. Let me see what you have got. I know I have  
10 it.

11 (Document tendered.)

12 MR. BELSKY: All right. Why don't we  
13 mark this and we'll give it back to him? This is  
14 the copy of the Social Security number and the  
15 medical examiner's certificate.

16 (Exhibit 15 marked.)

17 Q Okay. So we have an exam. Does he go  
18 out for a road test?

19 **A Generally he goes out for a road test,**  
20 **he goes along with another driver first of all to,**  
21 **as a ride along, what we call a ride along, where**

Page 55

1 **A We do, the company does.**

2 Q And is part of that examination an eye  
3 examination?

4 **A I believe so, yeah.**

5 Q Do you have a copy of that report?

6 **A No, I do not have a copy of that. I see**  
7 **a drug screen. The medical facility would have a**  
8 **copy.**

9 Q What is the name of the medical  
10 facility?

11 **A Crossroads Family Medical Center.**

12 Q Where are they located at?

13 **A They're in Brownstown, Pennsylvania.**

14 MR. MANN: You do have this document,  
15 which is the only one we have that has got  
16 Crossroads Family Medical Center on it.

17 MR. BELSKY: The drug screen?

18 MR. MANN: Yes.

19 MR. BELSKY: Yes, I do have that.

20 MR. MANN: It's the same company,  
21 same --

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1 **he watches, helps, that type of thing.**

2 Q Okay. And did he do okay on that?

3 **A Yeah, I believe so.**

4 Q Is there a report that's generated by  
5 that?

6 **A I don't have that, no.**

7 Q You don't have it or there is no such  
8 report?

9 **A There is and, but I don't have one**  
10 **listed in his file.**

11 Q Okay. Is there a reason why we don't  
12 have that one?

13 **A I'm not certain, no.**

14 Q There's also a written test?

15 **A That's a part of that. The written**  
16 **test, I don't know that we have one.**

17 Q All right. Here. I'll give you this  
18 back.

19 **A Oh, okay.**

20 Q I'll take this out of this pile and put  
21 it in this pile and then you can have that back.

15 (Pages 54 to 57)

Page 58

1 A Okay. That works.  
 2 Q Let me show you this. Is this the  
 3 written test? And that's my guess.  
 4 A This is for lock out/tag out, this is  
 5 for hazard communications.  
 6 Q So this is not a written test?  
 7 A It's a written test but it's not for  
 8 driving.  
 9 Q Not for driving, okay.  
 10 A Right.  
 11 Q Do you have a copy of the written test  
 12 that he took as part of his employment application?  
 13 A No.  
 14 Q Is there a reason why we don't have that  
 15 test?  
 16 A He had a CDL class A license and I think  
 17 we determined that if they have a CDL class A that  
 18 that, they met the burden for not having a written  
 19 test.  
 20 Q So he doesn't have to take a written  
 21 test?

Page 59

1 A Right.  
 2 Q And he did not take a written test?  
 3 A Correct.  
 4 Q You waived him in. Let me ask you, is  
 5 this a copy of -- this was supplied to us as the  
 6 new cell phone policy. Is that the policy?  
 7 A Yes.  
 8 MR. BELSKY: Okay. Why don't we mark  
 9 that as an exhibit?  
 10 (Exhibit 16 marked.)  
 11 Q You provided us with your insurance  
 12 information regarding this case but I'm not sure  
 13 that -- I want to make sure I understand what it  
 14 says. Am I correct that your deductible is a  
 15 thousand dollars?  
 16 A I believe so.  
 17 Q And that the coverage is over a million  
 18 dollars?  
 19 A I believe so, yeah. Is a million.  
 20 Q Let me just go through my list, I may be  
 21 finished.

Page 60

1 (Pause in the proceedings.)  
 2 Q The one thing that confuses me is that  
 3 the company never did an inspection of the vehicle,  
 4 only Ryder did the inspection of the vehicle?  
 5 A The only inspection that we would have  
 6 done I believe would have been a visual inspection  
 7 by the supervisor noting what damage needed to be  
 8 repaired and then calling Ryder and saying we need  
 9 a vehicle to get fixed.  
 10 Q Is there a written document that shows  
 11 that?  
 12 A That I'm not certain of, I would have to  
 13 check with the warehouse supervisor.  
 14 Q Would you do that?  
 15 A Sure.  
 16 Q And notify your attorney and get me a  
 17 copy of that?  
 18 MR. MANN: Yeah, we'll try and get you  
 19 that if there's a record from before when he took  
 20 the truck out, before he took it out and the one  
 21 when he came back the day of the accident.

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1 MR. BELSKY: Okay, great. I have  
 2 nothing further.  
 3 MR. MANN: I don't have any questions.  
 4 Mr. Keener will waive the reading and signing of  
 5 the deposition.  
 6 MR. BELSKY: All right.  
 7 (Deposition concluded at 11:04 a.m.)  
 8 \*\*\*\*\*  
 9  
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 11  
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 14  
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 18  
 19  
 20  
 21

16 (Pages 58 to 61)

Page 62

1 STATE OF MARYLAND, COUNTY OF CARROLL:

2 I, Sharon A. Beaty, a Notary Public in and  
3 for the State of Maryland, County of Carroll, do  
4 hereby certify the within named BRENT KEENER  
5 personally appeared before me at the time and place  
6 herein set out and, after having been duly sworn by  
7 me according to law, was interrogated by counsel.

8 I further certify that the examination was  
9 recorded stenographically by me and then  
10 transcribed from my stenographic notes to the  
11 within typewritten matter in a true and accurate  
12 manner. I further certify that the stipulations  
13 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
14 presence. I further certify that I am not of  
15 counsel to any of the parties, nor an employee of  
16 counsel, nor related to any of the parties, nor in  
17 any way interested in the outcome of this action.

18 AS WITNESS my hand and notarial seal this  
19 17th day of February, 2003, at Baltimore, Maryland.

20

21

Sharon A. Beaty, Notary Public

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